comprises:

(a) contacting a cell which is transfected with DNA encoding [expresses] (i) a receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE) protein and (ii) a mutant presenilin-2 protein [in a cell culture] with [and] the compound,

wherein the mutant presenilin-2 protein [is capable of causing] causes increased basal apoptosis in nerve growth factor-differentiated PC12 cells;

(b) adding a concentration of amyloid-beta peptide to the cell culture;

(c) determining the level of cell death in the cell culture; and

[(c)] (d) comparing the level of cell death determined in step [(b)] (c) with the amount determined in the absence of the compound so as to evaluate the ability of the compound to inhibit neurotoxicity.--

--2.(2X amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a neuronal cell, a glial cell, a microglial cell, an astrocyte, an endothelial cell, a mononuclear cell, a [neuronal] tumor cell, or a PC12 cell.--

--11.(amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound [capable of inhibiting] which inhibits neurotoxicity identified by the method of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

Please introduce new claims 34-37 as follows:

--34.(new) The method of claim 1, wherein the amyloid-beta peptide is amyloid-beta$_{1-42}$ peptide.--

--35.(new) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of amyloid-beta peptide added to the cell culture is from about 0.3 μM to about 1.0 μM.--

--36.(new) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA encodes for human RAGE.--

--37.(new) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA encodes for N141 mutant presenilin-2.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11 and 12 were pending. Applicants have amended claim 2 to overcome the objection raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §132. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to address a rejection raised under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended calim 1 to more particular point out the claimed invention. Support for these amendments may be found on pages 22-24 of the specification. Support for new claims 34-37 may be found in Figure 3 and on page 23, line 37 to page 24, line 10 and in Tables 1-3. Applicants maintain that these amendments raise no issue of new